



NEWS RELEASE

**NELSON P. COHEN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 28, 2007

07-169

ANCHORAGE MAN CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT
WITH COMPUTER FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on November 27, 2007, Vern Martin Coyner of Anchorage, Alaska, was arraigned on charges of computer fraud and identity theft described in an Information filed in the United States District Court in Anchorage.

The two-count Information named Coyner, age 52, of 2128 Sorbus Way, as the sole defendant.

According to the facts presented to the court, Coyner accessed a desktop computer he had shared with a former roommate, and in doing so obtained her personal passwords. Using the passwords, Coyner examined the woman's online accounts, including e-mail, bank accounts, credit accounts and investment accounts. Using the information he obtained, between August and October, 2005, Coyner accessed a computer operated by The Vanguard Group, and without authorization transferred the assets of the retirement accounts of his former roommate into an E*Trade account he had created. He also used her personal identifying information and without her permission obtained and used a credit card in her name.

Assistant United States Attorney Retta Randall indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of 15 years in prison, a fine of \$500,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offense and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant. Coyner was released on bail pending trial.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation leading to the charges filed in this case.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

###